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Israeli President Denies Spy Report

The office of Israeli President Chaim Herzog issued a statement yesterday denying an allegation in an article Sunday in The Washington Post that he had left the United States while serving as a defense attache in the 1950s because he learned that the FBI knew he had recruited a Jordanian military officer.

Herzog's statement said the reference associating him with "illegal espionage operations is false, malicious and tendentious."

It said he concluded his lengthy service here in 1954 "with all the honors accorded to a military attache upon departure. This is not the first time that this false, baseless allegation has been made by the same irresponsible source, whose motivation arouses many questions."

The Post attributed the description of Herzog's activities to Wilbur Crane Eveland III, a U.S. military intelligence officer at the time. Eveland wrote an article last January in Middle East Insight magazine describing the alleged incident. He could not be reached for comment yesterday.

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